

Prebble, a sixth-grade student from Mount Nittany Middle School in State College, Pennsylvania. Gareth has hopes of connecting what he refers to—and rightfully so—as the divide between the physically disabled and the rest of the population.

Young Gareth took a giant step towards this goal last month when he entered the Martin Luther King Commemoration Student Showcase essay contest. The contest, sponsored by Pennsylvania State University, is titled “Reflect on Yesterday. Experience Today. Transform Tomorrow.”

Gareth, who has cerebral palsy, wrote about his life experiences: “People often look at me and make assumptions based on my appearance.” Gareth’s essay evokes Dr. King’s powerful message—for all people in this country to be treated with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Gareth went on to win this competition. I rise to congratulate him for his work and for having the strength and courage to share his story. In doing so, he is a role model for each and every one of us in how we, too, can transform the future.

TUCSON GEM AND MINERALS SHOW

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, which next week will host the 60th annual Tucson Gem and Minerals Show.

This show began as a small club gathering, and over the past six decades, it has grown to set the standard for other such events around the world. This year’s show will be held from February 13 through 16 with the theme “60 Years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver, and Gold.”

As a result of the interest generated by this long-running event, dozens of satellite events very much like it have proliferated throughout the Tucson area. These feature gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, and other items from around the world and are known as the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase. These events bring an estimated \$100 million to southern Arizona.

None of this would have been possible without the work of the volunteers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. I am proud to recognize this long-time Tucson tradition and this great organization and the economic benefits it brings to my district.

TAXMAN STEALS THE GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America’s best athletes carry the ban-

ner of Old Glory into the Olympic Games. They are a remarkable breed and have dedicated their lives in training to represent Team USA in lands far, far away.

This year is no different as they hit the snowy Winter Games in Russia, and they are already doing quite well. As the “Star-Spangled Banner” plays, they stand on the podium to receive gold, silver, and bronze medals—but lurking in the creepy shadows of the medal ceremony is the U.S. taxman.

The IRS wants a piece of the gold even though these medals were won overseas. It is absurd that the IRS can levy a tax on these medals. These athletes are ambassadors for America. Their medals should not be taxed by the IRS. Are some winners going to have to sell their medals to pay the taxman? Who knows?

Congress should pass Congressman FARENTHOLD’s legislation this week that would keep the greedy hands of the IRS off the medals of the Olympians.

Mr. Speaker, the taxman should not be able to steal the gold, silver, and bronze.

And that’s just the way it is.

OLYMPIAN EDDY ALVAREZ

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a Miami native and Cuban American short-track speed skater, Eddy Alvarez.

When I first heard about this south Florida ice speed skater, I was even more astounded than when I found out about the Jamaican bobsled team. Disney may have to make a movie about this. In all seriousness, Eddy had his first competition in Sochi this morning, and he will continue competing in events this week.

Eddy learned to roller skate in south Miami, and then took to the ice, eventually competing internationally with great success. I am proud to note that Eddy attended Christopher Columbus High School and practiced at the Kendall Ice Arena—both great institutions in my district.

Eddy is a remarkable example of American determination and dedication. I wish him and his fellow Olympians all the success in Sochi.

ENDING RUSSIA’S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, as millions of Americans turn their attention to Sochi for the Winter Olympics, we cannot overlook Russia’s continued ban on intercountry adoption.

Every day, families across America eagerly await news that the Russians’

ban on allowing American families to adopt Russian children has finally ended. Some families have decided to look at other places to adopt, but many are still committed to completing their adoptions. Families like the Thomases, from Minnetrista, Minnesota, have not given up hope in adopting their second child from Russia. In 2008, they completed an adoption for their son Jack. After a successful transition, they have now begun the process of adopting Jack’s younger brother, Nikolai. Unfortunately, Russia’s adoption ban has squashed any hopes of completing that adoption.

Mr. Speaker, every child, no matter where he is born, should have the opportunity to grow up in a loving family. I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to end the Russian adoption ban and to let our families bring home their children.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PATRICIA McNAMARA BEAZLEY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a great American, Patricia McNamara Beazley, a magnificent woman and citizen whom we laid to rest today in Toledo, Ohio, after a mass at Gesu Church, a place that she called home.

Pat Beazley was an extraordinary human being. The minute you met her you felt like a member of her family. She was an artist of family, a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and an artist in her own right. Her paintings abound not just in her home but throughout our country and, certainly, in her home community.

Her son, Michael—a personal friend—her daughters, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, and her wonderful husband, Ben, just know that our entire community stands with you. We know what a builder of family and community Pat was. We celebrate her life—her life of love, her life of contributions to others, her very quiet way of building friendships and, in so doing, building a community that was strong—her church family, her community of artists and, obviously, her own family.

We say “thank you” to the Beazley Family for sharing Pat with us these many, many decades. We have been so blessed by her presence, and the beauty of her life and the beauty of her works will remain with us always. May she rest in peace, and may God give comfort to those who remain behind to carry forward her legacy.

[From: Toledo Blade]

Patricia Beazley, 83, an award-winning artist known for her skill in portraiture and in depicting family scenes and children, died Wednesday in her Sylvania Township home.

Mrs. Beazley developed complications after a series of strokes the last few years, her son, Michael, said. Mrs. Beazley and her loving, surviving husband, Ben, raised three

gifted children—Michael, Mary Beth and Trish. Their grandchildren & great grandchildren pay tribute to their lifetime of love and devotion.

Pat was an artist in every sense of the word. She accepted commissions and she created formal portraits, such as of professors and administrators at the University of Toledo and Ohio State University. Families commissioned her to depict a mother with a baby or a montage of family scenes. On occasion, she was asked on short notice to do a portrait that could be displayed at a wake or funeral service. She created the familiar picture, "Daughter Too," of the pig-tailed girl eating an apple on the side of Al Peake & Sons & Daughter Too produce trucks.

"Her biggest strength as an artist was she really captured the likeness," her daughter Mary Beth said. "A friend of hers stopped by and said, 'She captured the spirit.'"

Mrs. Beazley worked primarily in pastel, though she was versed in other media.

"She enjoyed anything from the still lifes to the flowers," her son said. "Her line of pencil drawings she used to call 'captured moments.' She always took joy in the craft and a special pride in the reactions of the families she did work for."

Her work has been selected for the annual Toledo Area Artists Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art and for a Pastel Society of America exhibition and has been included in other shows at the museum and through the Athena Art Society and other groups. She received a Grumbacher Bronze Medallion, and at several exhibitions, her works were deemed best-of-show.

Her mother was an amateur artist, but Mrs. Beazley did not take an art class until she was 39. She actively resisted training as a child, she told *The Blade* in 1981, because "I just knew I wasn't good enough."

She also was active at Gesu Church and volunteered for the League of Women's Voters—she produced a public television program featuring debates among local candidates—and on behalf of civil rights.

She'd painted a mural on the kitchen wall when the family lived in Chicago. She began sketching.—See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/toledoblade/obituary.aspx?n=patricia-beazley&pid=169562150&sthash.VEUvWBOk.dpuf>

A "CLEAN" DEBT CEILING: A DIRTY DEAL FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, sometime in the very near future, we are going to have to vote on an increase in the national debt. The national debt ceiling is currently at \$17 trillion, and all expectations are that the increase will put it up over \$18 trillion or at least \$17.5 trillion.

It is unconscionable to me that one of the largest items already in our budget is the interest on the national debt, and that it is also one of the fastest growing items in the budget. I will not vote, Mr. Speaker, for a so-called "clean" debt ceiling, because I think that is a dirty deal for the American people.

It is time to begin structural changes to our entitlement programs that make them subject to some sort of caps so that we can get back to balance and

keep our budget in balance. This is one of those inflection points in American history, and I hope that the House of Representatives will insist on real reform in our budget before we vote to increase the public debt by one penny.

MIAMI-DADE TEACHER OF THE YEAR MYRNA BETANCOURT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased tonight to rise to congratulate a Miami teacher who is going above and beyond for our south Florida students.

Myrna Betancourt, a culinary arts teacher at the South Dade Educational Center, is Miami-Dade County's 2015 Teacher of the Year.

Working out of her kitchen in the Chapman Partnership Homeless Center in Homestead, Myrna is giving hundreds—thousands—of often disadvantaged, special needs or homeless Miami students a second chance at life. A former social worker and public school teacher, Myrna has always wanted to help those in need. Thanks to her hard work, Myrna's chefs are learning to cook gourmet foods, are finding jobs in good restaurants, and are receiving scholarships at the finest culinary schools in our country. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, Myrna is giving them hope and an opportunity to follow their dreams.

Congratulations, Myrna. South Florida is also very proud of you.

CONGRATULATIONS WALLA WALLA VALLEY

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to recognize the beautiful Walla Walla Valley and the 30th anniversary of their Federal designation as an American Viticultural Area.

Over the past 30 years, the Walla Walla Valley has earned national and international recognition for being one of the best wine regions in the world. Just ask Gary and Nancy Figgins, who opened Leonetti Cellar in 1984 when there were just four wineries in the valley. Today, within 1,800 acres of green, rolling hills, you will find 130 different wineries.

This growth has allowed businesses to expand and the wine tourism to become one of the top industries in our State. Our community has rallied around the business owners, and now wine-related jobs account for nearly 15 percent of the total jobs in the area. All of this leads to a \$500 million economic impact, but it is not just the numbers, as it is about a community that makes us all proud in Washington State to call it our home.

I am honored to represent the Walla Walla Valley, and congratulations on

30 exceptional years. Best wishes for many, many more to come.

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SHAME ON YOU

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, the President has unilaterally, almost like a monarch, said ObamaCare is the law.

The fact is HARRY REID and the Senate were willing to shut down the government instead of just passing a bill that would have suspended ObamaCare for a year—or, at least suspend the mandates—and he did it again today.

So it makes it very clear the shutdown of our government that hurt so many people was clearly a political game by HARRY REID and the Senate Democrats because they wanted America to hurt—and blame the Republicans—when all along they were willing to agree to what we offered to avoid the shutdown.

Shame on you.

CONFLATING THE TERMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I have a number of things that I would like to bring to your attention that are on my mind and I think are on the minds of the American people.

The number one topic in this Capitol Building, at least on the House side right now—and I believe on the Senate side, too—is the question of the debt ceiling that has been brought forward. A lot of us have some memories of how difficult that was the last time that came through.

There are a good number of Members in this Congress that have pledged they will never vote to increase the debt ceiling. We have a President who used extraordinary methods the last time and stretched the debt ceiling out and the crunch time that was supposed to come for months. And it is curious that even though the Congress did backfill that debt ceiling for him, now he doesn't have any extraordinary means, evidently, and now we are up against the time line, up against the wall of perhaps a February 15 date. It causes this Congress to have to scramble.

It is not because this government is in risk of default, Mr. Speaker. That is the language that emerged 2 or 3 years ago on the debt ceiling. Republicans and Democrats alike talked about how this country's credit is good and we can't allow our government to default.

The definition of default really isn't what has been used in this dialogue